

Message

## ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY REPORT

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Report Highlights

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## Highlights

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### LEADING THE NEWS

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#### Virginia Sets Carbon Emissions Cap for Dominion Energy, Others

By Gerald B. Silverman

Virginia electric power companies like Dominion Energy would have to keep their carbon emissions below a statewide cap of 28 million tons per year in 2020 under regulations approved by the State Air Pollution Control Board.

#### Brazil's New President Awakens Fears for Amazon, the Environment

By Michael Kepp

Brazil's environment could be a target of President-elect Jair Bolsonaro, who wants to resume dam building in the Amazon basin and has given mixed

signals about whether he will pull South America's largest country out of the Paris climate agreement.

## **California Republicans Bank on Gas-Tax Repeal to Boost Turnout**

By Laura Mahoney, Christopher Brown, Tripp Baltz and Paul Stinson

A California ballot measure to reverse \$54 billion in revenue increases Democrats enacted in 2017 to fund road, bridge, and transit repairs may be about more than potholes and taxes.

## **TODAY'S NEWS**

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### **Legal Maelstrom Coming Over Waters Rule, Friends, Foes Warn**

By David Schultz

Justice Department worries over defending a new version of a landmark clean water regulation are stalling the rule at the White House, a farm industry lobbyist said.

### **Quaker Oats Hit With New Suit Over Weedkiller Residue**

By Julie Steinberg

PepsiCo, Inc. and its Quaker Oats Co. unit deceived consumers by failing to disclose that more than a dozen cereals and bars touted as healthful contain traces of the weedkiller glyphosate, a new proposed class suit alleges.

### **Coal's Next Big Thing Could Be the Mini Power Plant**

By Rebecca Kern

If coal has a future, the Energy Department is banking on small modular coal-fired power plants that it says would generate more energy out of the same amount of coal, while polluting less.

### **Democrats Eye Push for Infrastructure Plan If They Retake House**

By Mark Niquette and Alan Levin

Democrats are planning to pursue a major U.S. transportation and infrastructure measure if they retake control of the U.S. House in the Nov. 6 midterm elections, but the same question that helped stall Donald Trump's trillion-dollar initiative remains: How would it be funded?

## **Scientists Close Gap in Oil, Gas Field Methane Emissions Estimates**

By Bobby Magill

A new way of measuring methane emissions from oil and gas operations has exposed unexpected pollution sources and helps reconcile discrepancies in previous monitoring methods.

## **California Has Posse in War With Trump Over Electric Cars**

By John Lippert and Gabrielle Coppola

A few weeks ago, California's clean-air regulator flew from Los Angeles to St. Paul, Minn., to give a speech. A crowd of 600 environmental activists had gathered to talk about the importance of speeding up the transition to electric cars.

## **Weapons-Grade Plutonium Ordered Removed From South Carolina**

By Bernie Pazanowski

The federal government must remove a metric ton of weapons-grade plutonium from South Carolina within the two-year window ordered by a federal district court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit said.

## **Buffett Takes on Adelson in Billionaire Feud Over Vegas Lights**

By Mark Chediak and Brian Eckhouse

In a battle of billionaires, Sheldon Adelson and Warren Buffett are squaring off over who controls the power that keeps the bright lights blazing in Las Vegas and across Nevada.

## German Coal Imports Seen Rising in 2019 in Lignite Mine Standoff

By Brian Parkin, Mathew Carr, and William Wilkes

Germany may have to buy more coal abroad to fuel its power plants as supplies fall from RWE AG's protest-hit Hambach lignite mine.

## China's Major Solar Cell Makers Idle Almost Half Their Capacity

By Bloomberg News

China's major solar cell makers idled almost half their production capacity in September as a shift in the country's photovoltaic policies weakened demand, according to an industry group.

## Lawsuit Risks Could Prompt Czechs to Delay Costly Nuclear Project

By Krystof Chamonikolas and Lenka Ponikelska

The Czech Republic could postpone its decision on whether to force utility CEZ AS into an unprofitable multibillion-dollar construction of new reactors as it looks how to avoid lawsuits from minority shareholders.

## Wind, Sun to Strand \$60 Billion of Coal Assets in Southeast Asia

By Dan Murtaugh

Keep pouring money into coal-fired plants and it won't be just the fuel that's getting burned.

## U.K. Targets Waste Packaging With Tax on Non-Recyclable Plastics

By Anna Hirtenstein and Jessica Shankleman

The U.K. is planning a tax on the import and manufacturing of non-recyclable plastic packaging in response to growing concern about waste materials polluting the environment.

## U.K. Pollution Costs Could Be Cut in Half Under No-Deal Brexit

By Mathew Carr

U.K. greenhouse gas polluters could see their costs for emitting carbon cut in half if the nation crashes out of the European Union without an agreement.

### **The Myth of Donald Trump's Revival for 'Beautiful Clean Coal'**

By Jeremy Hodges, William Wilkes and Chisaki Watanabe

Thick white smoke tinged with a silvery hue blows from the chimney of one of the cleanest coal plants in the world.

### **Aux Sable Liquid Products Agrees to \$2.7 Million Air Pollution Fine**

By Amena H. Saiyid

Aux Sable Liquid Products LP agreed to pay a \$2.7 million fine to resolve Clean Air Act violations from its Illinois-based natural gas processing plant under a proposed settlement reached Oct. 29 with the Justice Department.

### **Railroad Remains in PPG Waste Suit to Access Right-of-Way**

By Peter Hayes

Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad Inc. will remain a defendant in a citizen suit against the railroad and PPG Industries Inc. over contamination in the Allegheny River, even though there are no allegations that the railroad is responsible for the contamination.

### **Bitcoin Could Theoretically Put Paris Climate Goals Out of Reach**

By Eric Roston and Olga Kharif

If bitcoin were to become a true global transactional currency, the electricity needed to mine it alone would generate enough carbon dioxide to push the planet beyond 2 degrees Celsius of warming within a quarter-century.

### **INSIGHT: How Artificial Intelligence Will Change Environmental Compliance**

In the world of environmental law, AI is actually an emerging issue of great potential interest, David A. Rockman of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott writes in this Insight article.

## **WEEKLEND WRAPUP**

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### **EPA Courtroom Error Spurs Back-and-Forth on Secret Chemicals, Safety**

By Pat Rizzuto

All data regarding the health effects and safety of a chemical must be clearly linked to that substance even if the identity of the compound is shielded, an environmental group reiterated to a federal court.

### **White House Still Backs Nevada Nuclear Repository, Perry Says**

By Ari Natter and Brian Eckhouse

Energy Secretary Rick Perry said the White House still supports construction of a planned repository for nuclear waste in Nevada, despite President Donald Trump's suggestion that he was reconsidering.

### **High Tech Firms Seek to Make Splash in Traditional Water Industry**

By James Munson

The latest technology trends—artificial intelligence, big data, and the Internet of Things—have the potential to make waves in the slow-moving water management sector but are still waiting for a breakthrough.

### **GM, Honda Join California in Criticizing Trump Efficiency Plan**

By Ryan Beene and John Lippert

Two of the biggest automakers and California officials are pushing back on the Trump administration's proposed rollback of U.S. fuel economy standards.

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